

Remarks

1. Amendments

By the present Amendment, claims 1 and 9 have been amended. Upon entry of the present Amendment, claims 1 to 18 will be pending in the application.

2. Comments

Paragraph 2: objection under 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) and MPEP#608.01(o)

It is respectfully submitted that the amendments to the claims overcome this rejection.

Paragraph 4: rejection of claims 1-18 under 35U.S.C. 112, first paragraph

It is respectfully submitted that the amendments to the claims overcome this rejection.

Paragraph 6: rejection of claims 1-3, 6-8 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Okada et al.(US-6,120,983), Tsuzuki (US-5,677,121), Siga (US-4,332,889), Tsukada (2002/0058220A1), Winslow et al (US 5,891,615) and Purol et al (US 5,236,816).

Paragraph 7: rejection of claims 4-5 under 35U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 4-5 were rejected as unpatentable over Okada et al.(US-6,120,983), Tsuzuki (US-5,677,121), Tsukada (2002/0058220A1), Winslow et al (US 5,891,615), and Purol et al (US 5,236,816), as applied in paragraph 6, and further in view of Siga (US-4,332,889).

Paragraph 8: rejection of claims 9-11, 15-18 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 9-11, 15-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over the

combination of Okada et al.(US-6,120,983), Winslow et al (US 5,891,615) and Purol et al (US 5,236,816).

The compound having an adsorptive group to silver halide and a reducing group in the present invention is represented by the following formula (I):



wherein, in the formula, A represents a group adsorptive to silver halide, W represents a divalent linking group, n represents 0 or 1, and B represents a reducible group, wherein the group adsorptive to silver halide is a heterocyclic group substituted by a mercapto group, a heterocyclic group substituted by two mercapto groups, or a nitrogen atom containing heterocyclic group having a -NH- group capable to form an imino-silver (>NAg) as a partial structure of heterocyclic ring, and the reducible group is 3-pyrazolidone group.

The compound having an adsorptive group to silver halide and a reducing group in the present invention has effects in photothermographic material to achieve high sensitivity with low fogging, and excellent image stability, such as decreased print-out.

Okada discloses a compound of the formula: X-L₁-D, wherein D is an electron donative group, X is an adsorption promoting group, and L₁ is a valence bond or linking group in columns 12-20, and compounds 1 to 55. The electron donative group represented by D is preferably an amino group, a hydrazino group, a hydroxylamino group, a hydroxamic acid group, a semicarbazido group or a hydroxyl-semicarbazido. More preferably, D is an amino group, a hydrazino group or a semicarbazido group (column 5, lines 1-8). Okada does not disclose a compound having a 3-pyrazolidone group as an electron donative group.

The compound of formula X-L₁-D in Okada is a super-sensitizer which ensures sufficient super-sensitization effects in the red to infrared region, especially in the

practically advantageous infrared region in the range of 750nm to 1400nm (column 3, lines 10-14, column 28, lines 19-20).

Tsuzuki, Siga and Tsukada also do not disclose or suggest the compound having an adsorption group to silver halide and a reducing group in the present invention.

Winslow discloses a 3-pyrazolydones as reducing agent as reducing agent for organic silver salt. Purol discloses phenidones as super-additive developing agent contained in developing solution at conventional wet-processing photography.

In Winslow or Purol, 3-pyrazolydone is an independent molecule.

On the contrary, the compound having an adsorptive group to silver halide and a reducing group in the present invention has 3-pyrazolydone group as one partial part of a molecule.

A declaration under 37C.F.R.1.132 is provided herewith. The results obtained by the additional experiments set forth in the declaration demonstrate that 3-pyrazolydone contained in the image forming layer resulted in increase of fog without increase of sensitivity, and degradation in image stability. It is clearly understood that 3-pyrazolydone as a molecule has no effect of the compound having an adsorptive group to silver halide and a reducing group in the present invention.

Therefore, Winslow or Purol does not disclose or suggest the compound having an adsorptive group to silver halide and a reducing group in the present invention.

Consequently, none of Okada, Tsuzuki, Tsukada, Winslow and Purol discloses the compound having an adsorptive group to silver halide and a reducing group in the present invention. Therefore, any combination of Okada, Tsuzuki, Tsukada, Winslow or Purol does result in the present invention.

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In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sheldon J. Moss', written in a cursive style.

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